

SUMMARY OF THE 2018 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Missouri Department of Higher Education



The Second Regular Session of the 99th General Assembly began on January 3, 2018, and concluded on May 18, 2018.



Veto session begins on September 12, 2018.



Number of bills filed: 2,328



Number of bills that were truly agreed to and finally passed: 142

The following bills affecting higher education were signed and will become law effective Aug. 28, 2018, unless otherwise noted:

HB 1465 (Rep. Steve Cookson, R-Poplar Bluff)

- The CBHE's authority to approve, disapprove, or provisionally approve new degree programs is outlined.
- Public community colleges and technical colleges can offer baccalaureate degrees for certain fields.
- The University of Missouri is the state's only public research university and exclusive grantor of research doctorates, doctor of philosophy degrees, and first-professional degrees in areas such as dentistry, law, medicine, optometry, pharmacy, and veterinary medicine.
- No state college or university can seek the land grant designation held by Lincoln University and the University of Missouri.
- Degrees in chiropractic, osteopathic medicine, podiatry, and engineering should be offered in collaboration with the University of Missouri, unless it declines to collaborate, in which case the public institution can seek approval from the CBHE to offer the program independently.

SB 882 (Sen. Denny Hoskins, R-Warrensburg)

- The Missouri Higher Education Savings Program is changed to the Missouri Education Savings Program to allow for funds in a 529 account to be used at elementary and secondary education institutions. 529 account funds can be transferred tax-exempt to a Missouri ABLE account.

HB 1879 (Rep. Lyndall Fraker, R-Marshfield)

- Public institutions of higher education are exempt from being required to follow the state purchasing laws outlined in Chapter 34 RSMo.

SB 990 (Sen. Dan Hegeman, R-Cosby)

- Community colleges can initiate attachment to a local school district, provided that a majority of its board of trustees approves such a plan and the community college district pays for the election. The plan must be introduced to voters of the school district and approved by a majority vote.

HB 2034 (Rep. Paul Curtman, R-Washington)

- Public institutions of higher education can engage in the study of the growth, cultivation, or marketing of industrial and agricultural hemp in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture so long as the proper registration and/or permit is obtained. Institutions of higher education are limited to areas of land up to 20 acres.

HB 1517 (Rep. Gail McCann Beatty, D-Kansas City)

- The legal counsel and designated keeper of accounts of public institutions that award baccalaureate degrees must submit a report to the general assembly outlining specified details of all settlements and judgments paid in the previous month from the state legal expense fund beginning September 30, 2018.

HB 1606 (Rep. Elaine Gannon, R-De Soto)

- The CBHE and the Department of Economic Development must provide specific career and salary information for each credential offered by a public institution of higher education. This information shall appear on the public institution's website and in the course catalog alongside its credential offerings, if the institution currently publishes a course catalog, on or before October 1, 2019.

SB 807 & 577 (Sen. Jay Wasson, R-Springfield)

- Various provisions relating to degree offerings at public institutions of higher education are modified and the CBHE's authority to approve, disapprove, or provisionally approve new degree programs is outlined. See HB 1465 for specific details.
- Public institutions of higher education are exempt from being required to follow the state purchasing laws outlined in Chapter 34 RSMo.
- A student's attendance does not have to occur in the three years immediately prior to graduation in order to be eligible for the A+ Schools Program.
- Community colleges are allowed to initiate the attachment to a local school district, provided that a majority of its board of trustees approves the plan and the community college district pays for the election. The plan will be introduced to voters of the school district and must be approved by a majority vote.
- Students attending virtual institutions meeting specified criteria are eligible to receive funds from the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program.
- Public institutions of higher education must publish an annual report relating to mental health services provided on campus beginning with the 2020-2021 school year.
- The College Credit Disclosure Act is established, which requires higher education institutions that grant college level credit, but are not accredited by a federally recognized regional accreditor, to disclose such fact to students during the admission process. Institutions affiliated with a religious organization are exempt if a federally recognized faith-related accreditor accredits such institution.
- Students attending public institutions of higher education must score at least 70 percent on the Missouri Higher Education Civics Achievement Examination (50-100 questions similar to the United States citizenship exam) in order to graduate beginning July 2019.
- Public institutions of higher education may increase tuition by inflation plus an amount (no more than 5 percent) that would produce an increase in net tuition revenue no greater than the amount by which state operating support was reduced in the previous fiscal year.
- The list of professions of those whose children and spouses are eligible to receive a public safety officer or employee survivor grant from the CBHE is expanded to include air ambulance pilots, air ambulance registered professional nurses, air ambulance registered respiratory therapists, employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and specified medical technicians.



HB 1268 (Rep. Donna Lichtenegger, R-Jackson)

- The Missouri Dental Board can issue a dental faculty permit to an individual who is employed by an accredited dental school, college, or program in Missouri. The holder of such permit is authorized to practice dentistry only within accredited dental school programs and only while engaged in teaching didactic courses, preclinical laboratories, and supervising student-delivered patient care.

HB 1744 (Rep. Jim Hansen, R-Frankford)

- A student's attendance does not have to occur in the three years immediately prior to graduation in order to be eligible for the A+ Schools Program beginning June 1, 2018.
- Community colleges are allowed to initiate the attachment to a local school district, provided that a majority of its board of trustees approves the plan and the community college district pays for the election. The plan must be introduced to voters of the school district and approved by a majority vote.
- Public institutions of higher education are prohibited from requiring students to purchase meal plans or dine at on-campus facilities when a student has presented medical documentation of a food allergy or sensitivity, or a medical dietary issue.
- Students attending virtual institutions meeting specified criteria are eligible to receive funds from the Access Missouri Financial Assistance Program.
- Missouri 529 account holders are allowed to retain tax exempt status when transferring funds from a 529 account to a Missouri ABLE account.

SB 603 (Sen. Bob Onder, R-Lake Saint Louis)

- Students attending virtual institutions meeting specified criteria can be eligible to receive Access Missouri funds.

SB 870 (Sen. Dan Hegeman, R-Cosby)

- The list of professions of those whose children and spouses are eligible to receive a public safety officer or employee survivor grant from the CBHE is expanded to include air ambulance pilots, air ambulance registered professional nurses, air ambulance registered respiratory therapists, employees of the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and specified medical technicians.

The following bill was vetoed:

SB 894 (Sen. Doug Libla, R-Poplar Bluff)

- The "STEM Career Awareness Program" is created to increase awareness among students in grades 6-8.
- Students can replace a math, science, or practical arts course with a computer science course provided that the student has taken all classes with a required end-of-course exam. DESE must cooperate with the CBHE to develop and implement computer science academic performance standards. Parents of students who take computer science in lieu of Algebra II must sign a waiver stating they understand the decision could have an adverse effect on college admission decisions.
- Taxpayers can apply for up to \$10,000 of their state tax liability transferred to the STEM fund so long as the taxpayer provides education benefits or internships to students majoring in a STEM field, or hires Missouri STEM graduates.